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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

AID-05 /076 W
---------- 104353
R 271921Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9947
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, VE
SUBJECT: FRG-VENEZUELAN NAVAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

1. ON AUGUST 14 VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MAJOR GENERAL HOMERO LEAL TORRES, AND FRG AMBASSADOR RUDOLF SPANG SIGNED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR GERMAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VENEZUELAN NAVY. PRESS REPORTS ON THIS EVENT DID NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS ON THE CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL PRESS ON AUGUST 23 REPORTED LAUNCHING, IN THE PRESENCE OF VENEZUELAN NAVY COMMANDER VICE ADMIRAL ALFONSO MENDOZA RAMIREZ, IN FRG OF A SUBMARINE DESTINED FOR THE VENEZUELAN NAVY.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH VARIOUS SOURCES ON NATURE OF FRG-VENEZUELAN AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THIS AGREEMENT IS RELATED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PROSPECTIVE DELIVERY TO THE VENEZUELAN NAVY NEXT YEAR OF TWO GERMAN-MADE SUBMARINES, INCLUDING THE ONE JUST LAUNCHED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT INVOLVES THE ASSIGNMENT OF A FEW GERMAN TECHNICIANS TO ASSIST THE VENEZUELAN NAVY WITH THE SUBMARINES, AND DOES NOT ENTAIL
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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT FRG MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION

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IN VENEZUELA. GOV SOURCES EXPLAIN THAT THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT
IS STANDARD PROCEDURE WHEN THE GOV MAKES A MAJOR NEW ARMS
PURCHASE AND THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SIGNED THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE

THE SUBMARINE PURCHASE WAS ARRANGED ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
BASIS.
SHLAUDEMAN

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